

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:
a user authentication section that acquires ID information to identify each user from among a plurality of users, and performs user authentication based on said ID information;
an operation mode setting section that can selectively set, as an operation mode that sets a work environment for operation inputs, between ~~an~~ a personal operation mode to permit each user to operate individually and a public operation mode to permit an indefinite number of users to operate; and
a mode switching section that, when a user is authenticated in said user authentication section, switches said operation mode from said public operation mode into said personal operation mode for the authenticated user.
2. (Original) The image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said mode switching section switches said operation mode from said personal operation mode into said public operation mode based on a prescribed condition with the state that a current operation mode is set to said personal operation mode.
3. (Original) The image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein when ID information is not acquired for a period of time longer than a predetermined time in said user authentication section, said mode switching section switches said operation mode from said personal operation mode into said public operation mode with the state that a current operation mode is set to said personal operation mode.
4. (Original) The image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a human body detection section that detects a user located in the vicinity of said image processing apparatus, wherein when a human body has not been detected by said human body detection section for a period of time longer than a predetermined time, said mode switching section switches said operation mode from said personal operation mode into

said public operation mode with the state that a current operation mode is set to said personal operation mode.

5. (Original) The image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a setting information acquisition section that acquires setting information associated with each user, wherein said operation mode setting section sets said personal operation mode based on said setting information associated with the user authenticated in said user authentication section.

6. (Original) The image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said ID information cooperates with login IDs in a network that can be connected to said image processing apparatus, wherein said image processing apparatus further comprises a personal information processing section that performs the processing of personal information relevant to the users corresponding to said ID information existing on said network based on said ID information.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing computer program instructions in the form of a personal information management program that performs the management of personal information in an image processing apparatus shared by a plurality of users, which when executed, causes a computer to perform a method comprising the steps of: ~~adapted to be stored in a computer-readable medium so as to perform the management of personal information in an image processing apparatus shared by a plurality of users, said personal information management program serving to make a computer execute:~~

a user authentication step that acquires ID information to identify each user from among a plurality of users, and performing user authentication based on said ID information:

an operation mode setting step that selectively sets, as an operation mode that sets a work environment for operation inputs, between ~~an~~ a personal operation mode to permit each user to operate individually and a public operation mode to permit an indefinite number of users to operate; and

a mode switching step that, when a user is authenticated in said user authentication step, switches said operation mode from said public operation mode into said personal operation mode for the authenticated user.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium storing computer program instructions in the form of a personal information management program, ~~A personal information management program~~ as set forth in claim 7, wherein in said mode switching step, said operation mode is switched from said personal operation mode into said public operation mode based on a prescribed condition with the state that a current operation mode is set to said personal operation mode.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium storing computer program instructions in the form of a personal information management program, ~~The personal information management program~~ as set forth in claim 7, wherein in said mode switching step, when ID information is not acquired for a period of time longer than a predetermined time in said user authentication step, said operation mode is switched from said personal operation mode into said public operation mode with the state condition that a current operation mode is set to said personal operation mode.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium storing computer program instructions in the form of a personal information management program, ~~A personal information management program~~ as set forth in claim 7, further comprising a human body detection step for detecting a user located in the vicinity of said image processing apparatus, wherein in said mode switching step, when a human body has not been detected in said human body detection step for a period of time longer than a predetermined time, said operation mode is switched from said personal operation mode into said public operation mode with the state that a current operation mode is set to said personal operation mode.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium storing computer program instructions in the form of a personal information management program, ~~A personal information management program~~ as set forth in claim 7, further comprising a setting information acquisition step that acquires setting information associated with each user,

wherein in said operation mode setting step, said personal operation mode is set based on said setting information associated with the user authenticated in said user authentication step.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium storing computer program instructions in the form of a personal information management program, ~~A personal information management program~~ as set forth in claim 7, wherein said ID information cooperates with login IDs in a network that can be connected to said image processing apparatus, wherein said personal information management program further comprises a personal information processing step that performs the processing of personal information relevant to the users corresponding to said ID information existing on said network based on said ID information.

13. (New) An image processing apparatus having a stand-by state which ID information can be inputted comprising:

a user authentication section that compares the ID information inputted with data for ID information authentication;

an operation mode setting section that sets a first operation mode when a user is authenticated by the user authentication section; and

a mode switching section that switches to the stand-by state when the image processing apparatus is not operated for a period of time longer than a predetermined time during the first operation mode.

14. (New) The image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 13, further comprising a second operation mode that can be operated without performing the user authentication by the user authentication section.

15. (New) A method of personal information management of an image processing apparatus having a stand-by state which ID information can be inputted comprising:

comparing the ID information inputted with data for ID information authentication;

setting a first operation mode when a user is authenticated by the user authentication section; and

switching to the stand-by state when the image processing apparatus is not operated for a period of time longer than a predetermined time during the first operation mode.

16. (New) The method as set forth in claim 15, wherein the image processing apparatus further comprises a second operation mode that can be operated without performing the user authentication by the user authentication section.